

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further amendment to be proposed, the question is on the engrossment of the amendments and third reading of the bill.

The amendments were ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The bill (H.R. 2800), as amended, was passed.

(The bill will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

Mr. REID. I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the previous order, the Senate insists on its amendment and requests a conference with the House.

The Presiding Officer appointed Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. BOND, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HARKIN, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. LANDRIEU, and Mr. BYRD conferees on the part of the Senate.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, the Golden Gavel has long served the Senate to mark a Senator's 100th presiding hour and continues to represent our appreciation for the time these dedicated Senators contribute to presiding over the United States Senate, a very important duty. On the evening of Friday, October 17th, Senator JOHN SUNUNU reached his 100th hour of presiding. As a Presiding Officer, his dedication and dependability are to be commended. I am truly grateful for his willingness to preside as scheduling conflicts arise especially on the not-so-popular Fridays and Mondays. He and his enthusiastic scheduling staff make every effort to do their part to carry their share of the presiding load with a smile. It is with sincere appreciation that I announce the second recipient of the golden gavel award for the 108th Congress, Senator JOHN SUNUNU.

TRIBUTE TO E. LINWOOD "TIP" TIPTON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor my friend E. Linwood Tipton. Tip, as he is known by

friends, will have devoted 38 years of his life to the dairy industry upon his retirement later this year.

Growing up on his family's farm in Missouri, Tip's interest in agriculture developed at a young age. He attended the University of Missouri where he earned a bachelor's degree in Agriculture and a master's degree in Economics. After serving his country as an officer in the U.S. Army Finance Corp, Tip returned to the dairy industry where his talent and leadership were recognized and he quickly advanced.

In 1987, Tip was appointed president and CEO of the Milk Industry Foundation and the International Ice Cream Manufacturers Association. Under his direction, the International Dairy Show began in 1988 and evolved into the Worldwide Food Expo, an event that currently features over 1,000 exhibitors from 150 different countries. He also created Dairy Forum, a major annual conference for dairy producers and processors. In 1990, he rallied the milk industry to form the International Dairy Foods Association, IDFA, an organization that encompasses the Milk Industry Foundation, the National Cheese Institute, and the International Ice Cream Association. Tip's innovative ideas and strong leadership have stimulated the growth of IDFA. Tip led the way in the creation of the extremely successful "Milk Mustache" and "Got Milk?" marketing campaigns.

His knowledge of the dairy industry and the economy has encouraged Secretaries of Agriculture and U.S. Trade Representatives of both political parties to seek his counsel. In 1984, President Reagan appointed Tip to the National Commission on Agricultural Trade and Export Policy. He has been active on Capitol Hill by testifying numerous times before congressional committees and initiating the annual Capitol Hill Ice Cream Party.

Nondairy organizations have also benefited from Tip's leadership. He founded the International Sweetener Colloquium so sugar and sweetener-using industries could assemble and discuss sugar policy. Tip is a past president and chairman of the board of the National Economists Club and the National Economic Education Foundation. He also has been active in the D.C. community by serving on the "Main Street" restoration project's board of directors.

Tip is truly a visionary in the dairy industry. From regulating dairy food retail packaging to implementing marketing campaigns, he has delved into every aspect of the dairy business. Tip's leadership should be commended and, therefore, I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable man's dedication to the food industry, his community, and his Nation.

TRIBUTE TO BILL AND MEREDITH SCHROEDER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I pay special tribute to two individuals whose foresight inspired a mecca in America's Heartland. Bill and Meredith Schroeder's interest in quilts has led to an exciting and beneficial business venture for the City of Paducah, KY, and the surrounding area. In 1984, the Schroeder's founded the American Quilter's Society, AQS, after discovering the need for worldwide recognition of the beauty of quilting as an art form and as a statement of our history and society.

The Schroeder's created a multi venue environment to promote the art and craft of quilting. Through the American Quilter's Society, they established a membership organization with participants from every U.S. State and territory, as well as from 80 countries. They created the AQS Quilt Show & Contest, the largest cash-juried contest in the world. Held each April in Paducah, KY, now recognized as "Quilt City USA®", the annual show brings millions of dollars to the tourism industry of western Kentucky. In 1991, the Museum of the American Quilter's Society opened. The museum has hosted hundreds of thousands of quilters and quilt lovers, and has enjoyed a history of growth and development.

Bill and Meredith Schroeder are extraordinary individuals who had a vision and worked hard to bring it to fruition. In appreciation for the Schroeder's commitment to fostering the respect of the general public for quilts and quilt makers, and for their unselfish desire to develop the economy of western Kentucky, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in recognizing the outstanding contributions they have made to their community, to Kentucky, and to our Nation.

(At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. President, I was not present for the vote on S. 139, the Climate Stewardship Act of 2003. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."•

FOREST FIRE UPDATE

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to give the Senate an update on the wildfires sweeping across Southern California—as the Senate continues to debate legislation to change our Nation's forest policy.

The situation in my State is at a critical juncture. If the weather continues to improve—as it is expected—then firefighters may be able to get a handle on the fires which continue to burn. This would be good news indeed.

I would also like to report that FEMA will shortly be announcing 6